

# SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

105th Congress  
1st Session

Vote No. 162

July 9, 1997, 6:02 pm  
Page S-7087 Temp. Record

## DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION/DoD Funds to Restore Breakfast Start-Up Grants

**SUBJECT:** National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1998 . . . S. 936. Thurmond motion to table the Wellstone modified amendment No. 670.

### ACTION: MOTION TO TABLE AGREED TO, 65-33

**SYNOPSIS:** As reported, S. 936, the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1998, will authorize a total of \$268.2 billion in budget authority for national defense programs (the President requested \$265.6 billion). In real terms, this bill will authorize \$3.3 billion less than was provided in fiscal year (FY) 1997.

**The Wellstone modified amendment** would authorize the Secretary of Defense for each of fiscal years 1998-2002 to transfer to the Secretary of Agriculture \$5 million of Defense Department funds, to be used to start or to expand school breakfast programs and summer food service programs for children (in that order of priority). The amendment also would authorize the Secretary of Defense to transfer additional funds to cover any increase in the costs of the meals provided to children as a result of this amendment's adoption. The Secretary of Agriculture would make payments on a competitive basis to States and State educational agencies. School breakfast program grants would be required to go to schools with "a significant percentage" of students from low-income families, and which agreed to operate the school breakfast programs for at least 3 years. Summer food service program grants would be required to go to "service institutions," including public or private school food authorities, governments, youth camps, and Youth Sports Program sponsors. States and localities would be forbidden from diminishing their expenditures on school breakfast and summer food service programs as a result of the payments authorized by this amendment. (The amendment, in effect, would reauthorize the School Breakfast Start-Up Grant Program that was eliminated in last Congress' welfare reform bill. Elimination of that program was recommended by all major welfare reform proposals of the 104th Congress, including the President's proposal and the Senate Democrat's substitute proposal.)

Debate was limited by unanimous consent. After debate, Senator Thurmond moved to table the Wellstone amendment. Generally, those favoring the motion to table opposed the amendment; those opposing the motion to table favored the amendment.

(See other side)

YEAS (65)			NAYS (33)			NOT VOTING (2)	
Republicans (52 or 96%)	Democrats (13 or 30%)		Republicans (2 or 4%)	Democrats (31 or 70%)		Republicans (1)	Democrats (1)
Abraham	Helms	Biden	Jeffords	Akaka	Kerry	Coats- <sup>2</sup>	Mikulski- <sup>2</sup>
Allard	Hutchinson	Bingaman	Specter	Baucus	Kohl		
Ashcroft	Hutchison	Breaux		Boxer	Lautenberg		
Bennett	Inhofe	Bryan		Bumpers	Leahy		
Bond	Kempthorne	Cleland		Byrd	Levin		
Brownback	Kyl	Dodd		Conrad	Moseley-Braun		
Burns	Lott	Graham		Daschle	Moynihan		
Campbell	Lugar	Hollings		Dorgan	Murray		
Chafee	Mack	Inouye		Durbin	Reed		
Cochran	McCain	Kerrey		Feingold	Reid		
Collins	McConnell	Landrieu		Feinstein	Rockefeller		
Coverdell	Murkowski	Lieberman		Ford	Sarbanes		
Craig	Nickles	Robb		Glenn	Torricelli		
D'Amato	Roberts			Harkin	Wellstone		
DeWine	Roth			Johnson	Wyden		
Domenici	Santorum			Kennedy			
Enzi	Sessions						
Faircloth	Shelby						
Frist	Smith, Bob						
Gorton	Smith, Gordon						
Gramm	Snowe						
Grams	Stevens						
Grassley	Thomas						
Gregg	Thompson						
Hagel	Thurmond						
Hatch	Warner						

#### EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

#### SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

**Those favoring** the motion to table contended:

The Wellstone amendment would restore a welfare grant program that was eliminated last year because there was widespread, bipartisan agreement that it had outlived its usefulness. The President recommended termination of the program during the welfare reform debate, the Senate Democrats' substitute proposal recommended termination, and the bill that finally was enacted terminated it. That welfare program, which had existed for 30 years, was to provide start-up grants for school breakfast programs. Senators agreed that it was no longer needed because four out of every five low-income children already attended schools with school breakfast programs, and few new schools were applying for funds. In fact, in the final 2 years of the program's existence, only 48 schools in the entire country even asked for any of its start-up money. The final point that needs to be made is that this amendment would set a terrible precedent by delegating legislative authority over budget decisions to the Secretary of Defense. Our colleagues have offered this amendment as a way of sidling around the defense firewall without their proposal eventually being subject to a 60-vote point of order. That firewall protects national security by preventing Senators from using the defense budget as a big piggy-bank for all their favorite social welfare programs. Giving unelected officials our responsibility as Senators for making budget decisions might seem like a clever way around the firewall, but it would be a very dangerous action because Senators would lose control over the budget. It would weaken democracy if unelected, and thus unaccountable, government officials were allowed to decide which Federal programs would receive funding. For all these reasons, the Wellstone amendment is bad legislation; we urge Senators to support the motion to table.

**Those opposing** the motion to table contended:

The \$5 million that would be transferred by this amendment is a very small percentage of the \$2.6 billion above the Pentagon's budget request which this bill authorizes. It would restore a \$5 million fund for outreach and start-up grants for school breakfast programs which was eliminated in the 1996 welfare reform act. Every low-income student who is eligible for a free lunch is eligible for breakfast as well, but only 39.6 percent of those students are able to participate in the School Breakfast Program. The program needs money to expand. This amendment would take that money out of the defense budget because part of national security has to be the security of local communities, which requires that we allow every child to reach his full potential. That goal cannot be achieved until every child gets adequate nutrition. We should at least authorize the Secretary of Defense to transfer a measly \$5 million to get this job done. We urge the Senate to reject the motion to table and to support the Wellstone amendment.